

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following remarks and discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-95 are pending; Claims 4-23, 27-46, 50-69 and 73-92 are withdrawn from consideration; Claims 1, 24, 47, 70, and 95 are amended; and no claims are added or cancelled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 24-26, 47-49, 70-72, 93-94 and 95-96 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,559,604 to Arai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,018,017 to Sasaki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,227 to Fukuoka.

The independent claims recite, in part, applying the correction to the data representative of the color image, wherein the illuminant comprises multiple sources of illumination that includes the camera's on-camera R/G and B/G illumination estimation data wherein R, G and B are measured signal values for illumination color and recording data representative of the image with data representative of the estimated illuminant and transmitting the data representative of the image with the data representative of the estimated illuminant.

The applied art does not teach or suggest the above-discussed features. Specifically, Arai discloses a spectral photometer 10 provided for detecting the color temperature of an observational illuminant for observing a color reproduced on a print outputted from a color output device or a CRT screen. The spectral photometer 10 is connected to a computer 12 which includes a RAM. A value of lightness index L^* and values of chromaticness indices a^* , b^* in an $L^*a^*b^*$ colorimetric system, which are colorimetric values when an observation is made under a standard illuminant such as D50 or D65, are loaded in the RAM.

The computer 12 is connected to a multilayered feedforward neural network 14. The neural network 14 is comprised of an input layer having four units, and intermediate layer having a multiplicity of units, and an output layer having four units. The neural network 14 is connected to the computer such that L^* , a^* and b^* values under a standard illuminant are inputted to the units of the input layer. Meanwhile, C, M, Y, and K values, which are color separation values, are outputted from the respective units of the output layer. The output of the neural network 14 is connected to a color output device 16 such as a color printer.

As such, the neural network 14 is made in advance to learn a color temperature relationship between the L^* , a^* and b^* values at each color temperature and also the CMYK values. That is, the color temperatures and relationships are learned in advance so that CMYK values with respect to the inputted color temperature will be outputted from the output layer when the L^* , a^* and b^* values under a standard illuminant and an observational illuminant, i.e., the color temperature of an illuminating illuminant, are inputted into the input layer.

As discussed above, Arai does not disclose all the features of the independent claims. Neither Sasaki nor Fukuoka makes up for the deficiencies of Arai. Fukuoka discloses a digital camera that communicates with an external device in order to output status information, receive commands and transfer images and sound to the external device. Sasaki is concerned with providing a camera having memory capacity required for recording one frame of data that can be changed as required and otherwise coping with a shortage in residual amount of recording medium at the time of photographing.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis in the teachings of Arai, Sasaki or Fukuoka to support their applied combination. Certainly, the outstanding Office Action fails to cite to any specific teachings within any of the references to support the applied combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the

applied art is the result of hindsight reconstruction in view of the teachings of the present specification, and is improper.


For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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